

## **SRFB Policy Task Force: Possible Issues**

June 26, 2003

Below are ideas for issues that the Task Force may wish to address. The list is not exhaustive, nor does it reflect any sense of priority or timing. Task Force members should come prepared to brainstorm additional issues and begin to focus on which issues the Task Force should tackle and in what sequence.

### **Possible Issues to Consider:**

- ▷ Issues recognized by SRFB last fall and assigned work groups
  - Fish passage
  - Acquisition
  - Benefits and certainty
  - Timeline (of future rounds and of 5<sup>th</sup> round steps)
  - Nearshore
  - Role of the tech panel
  - Strategies
  - Regional recovery planning
  - Forest and fish
  - Small grant program
- ▷ Issues established by LEAG
  - “Certification”
- ▷ Issues raised at March SRFB meeting during funding deliberations
  - Role of Tech Panel
  - Content and use of strategies
  - SRFB priorities regarding listed species
  - Priorities across LEs and regions
- ▷ Issues raised at the Strategy Workshop
  - Content and use of strategies
  - Role of Tech Panel
  - Relation of lead entity strategies to regional recovery planning
  - “Portfolio” approach to project selection and evaluation
  - Evaluating cost-effectiveness
  - Policy on regional priorities and “equity”
  - Monitoring at the project, reach, and watershed level
  - Evaluating socio-economic benefits
- ▷ Issues resulting from the 2003 Legislature
  - Restoration vs. acquisition
  - Reappropriation of state SRFB funds, delays in spending SRFB funds
- ▷ Other Issues
  - “Returned” funds: what happens to funds for projects that are not implemented or are accomplished under budget?

## **Priorities and Timing**

Some of the issues above are more “nuts and bolts” in nature, have had a significant amount of work done in workgroups, and are nearly ready for 5<sup>th</sup> round policy recommendations. The workgroups could report their findings and recommendations to the Task Force for informational purposes and for identification of any issues that should be addressed by the Task Force. Workgroup topics that fit into this category are:

- ▷ Fish passage (not including the family farm forest program)
- ▷ Nearshore
- ▷ Assessments
- ▷ Acquisition

Other issues still have a considerable amount of work left to be done and, with the exception of the first bullet below, have not been addressed by workgroups:

- ▷ Guidance on content and use of strategies
- ▷ Small grant program
- ▷ Monitoring at the WRIA level
- ▷ Evaluation of socio-economic benefits
- ▷ Policy on listed vs. unlisted fish
- ▷ Guidance on evaluating cost-effectiveness
- ▷ Establishing WRIA and regional priorities

Other issues have a considerable amount of work left to be done and also could depend on decisions regarding some bigger, long-term issues such as the future role of lead entities, regional boards, and the SRFB. These issues include:

- ▷ Role of the Tech Panel (vs. that of the lead entity)
- ▷ Definition and use of “benefits” and “certainty”
- ▷ “Certification” or “portfolio” approach to funding
- ▷ Relation of lead entity strategies to regional recovery planning
- ▷ Funding of lead entity and regional recovery board infrastructure and activities

## **Suggestion for How the Task Force Could Proceed**

1. Decide on the time-line for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grant cycles based on relationship to federal and state budgeting cycles, available funding, lead entity and sponsor needs, and time needed to resolve 5<sup>th</sup> round policy issues.
2. Decide if the Task Force will address the long-term role of lead entities and the SRFB prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> round or postpone this discussion for future grant rounds.
3. Establish list of issues to be addressed
4. Establish priorities and timing for addressing issues
5. For each issue develop options and recommendations for public review and SRFB decision.

It is possible that items 1-4 could be addressed, at least initially, at the first Task Force meeting on June 1. If the Task Force develops a specific recommendation on future grant cycle timing, it is unlikely, however, that the SRFB would be ready to adopt a specific timeline at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. However, the Board should be prepared as soon as possible to give lead entities some direction about when the 5<sup>th</sup> grant round will (or will not) be occurring.